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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/082,489 | 02/22/2002 | Alan Rubinstein | 3COM-3766.BCG.US.P | 3729 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| NGUYEN, LEE | |
| **ART UNIT** | **PAPER NUMBER** |
| 2682 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/082,489 | RUBINSTEIN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | LEE NGUYEN | 2682 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 November 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 7-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *3* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-5* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *7-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.



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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/08/2005 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7-11 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Metz et al. (US 5,754,539).

Regarding claim 7, Metz teaches a multi-configuration network connection point device 8 (figs. 1, 3), comprising: a first connection interface 16 including a primary connection port 17 for communicatively coupling to an upstream network device 1; a

second connection interface 9 including a secondary connection port 71 for communicatively coupling to a downstream network device via a wireless technology 7, wherein said second connection interface 9 is adapted to be secured in a fixed location (it is noticed that the device 8 is expanded and integrated within the work station 3, see col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 4 and lines 51-55), while conveniently providing said communicatively coupling to a downstream network device via a wireless technology 7; a means 12 for intelligently concentrating data from a plurality of interface connection ports 41, 51 61, 71 included in said second connection interface 16 for communication on said primary connection port 17 of said first connection interface 16; and a communication bus 13 for communicatively coupling said first connection interface 16 to said second connection interface 9.

Regarding claim 8, Metz also teaches that said first connection interface 16 comprises a single primary interface connection port 17.

Regarding claim 9, Metz also teaches that said second connection interface 9 comprises a plurality of interface connection ports 41, 51, 61, 71 (fig. 3).

Regarding claim 10, Metz also teaches that said first connection interface 16 couples to a singular communication path 17 to an upstream device 1 (figs. 1, 3).

Regarding claim 11, Metz also teaches that said secondary connection interface 9 is configured for convenient placement in fixed locations in a manner that facilitates maintenance of system integrity and security (it is noticed that the device 8 is expanded and integrated within the work station 3, therefore, the second connection interface 9

within the device 8 is also to be fixedly placed in the work station 3, see col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 4 and lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 15, Metz teaches a multi-configuration network connection point method (figs. 1, 3), comprising: providing a single connection point 17 on a primary communication interface 16; providing a plurality of connection points 41, 51, 61, 71 on a secondary communication interface 9; and coupling the single connection point 17 on a primary communication interface 16 to the plurality of connection points 41, 51, 61, 71 on a secondary communication interface 9.

Regarding claim 16, Metz also teaches that the single connection point 17 couples to a single communication path to upstream network device 1 (figs. 1, 3).

Regarding claim 17, Metz further teaches that the single connection point is configured for fixed placement in a concealed environment 8 (it is noticed that the device 8 is expanded and integrated within the work station 3, therefore, the second connection interface 9 within the device 8 is also to be fixedly placed in the work station 3, see col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 4 and lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 18, Metz further teaches that the secondary communication interface 9 is adapted to be secured in a fixed location while conveniently providing said communicative coupling to a downstream network device 7 via a wireless technology (it is noticed that the device 8 is expanded and integrated within the work station 3, therefore, the second connection interface 9 within the device 8 is also to be fixedly placed in the work station 3, see col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 4 and lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 19, Metz also teaches intelligently concentrating data (from 16, fig. 3) from a plurality of interface connection ports 41, 51 61, 71 included of said second connection interface 9 for communication on said primary connection port 17 of a first connection interface 16 (see ATM, col. 4, 12-22).

Claims 7-11 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. (US 6,571,221).

Regarding claim 7, Stewart teaches a multi-configuration network connection point device (fig. 2C)), comprising: a first connection interface including a primary connection port (output of network interface 220) for communicatively coupling to an upstream network device (fig. 1A, numerals 140, 150); a second connection interface including a secondary connection port (input to 220 from 210C, 210D, fig. 2C) for communicatively coupling to a downstream network device 111 via a wireless technology (fig. 1A), wherein said second connection interface (input to 220 from 210C, 210D, fig. 2C) is adapted to be secured in a fixed location (secured in fixed location 124, fig. 2C), while conveniently providing said communicatively coupling to a downstream network device via a wireless technology 111 (fig. 1A); a means 220 for intelligently concentrating data from a plurality of interface connection ports 210C, 210D, 230C, 230D (fig. 2C) included in said second connection interface (input to 220 from 210C, 210D, fig. 2C) for communication on said primary connection port of said first connection interface (output from network interface 220); and inherently a

communication bus inside the network interface 220 (fig. 2C) for communicatively coupling said first connection interface to said second connection interface.

Regarding claim 8, Stewart also teaches that said first connection interface comprises a single primary interface connection port (single output at 220, fig. 2C).

Regarding claim 9, Stewart also teaches that said second connection interface comprises a plurality of interface connection ports (input to 220 from 210C, 210D, fig. 2C).

Regarding claim 10, Stewart also teaches that said first connection interface couples to a singular communication path (single output at 220, fig. 2) to an upstream device 140 (fig. 1A).

Regarding claim 11, Stewart also teaches that said secondary connection interface (210C, 210D input to 220, fig. 2C) is configured for convenient placement in fixed locations 124 (fig. 2C) in a manner that facilitates maintenance of system integrity and security.

Regarding claim 15, Stewart teaches a multi-configuration network connection point method (fig. 2C), comprising: providing a single connection point on a primary communication interface (single output at 220); providing a plurality of connection points 210C, 210D, 230C, 230D on a secondary communication interface (inputs to 220); and coupling the single connection point on a primary communication interface (single output from 220, fig. 2C) to the plurality of connection points 210C, 210D, 230C, 230D on a secondary communication interface.

Regarding claim 16, Stewart also teaches that the single connection point couples to a single communication path (single output from 220, fig. 2C) to upstream network devices 140, 150 (fig. 1A).

Regarding claim 17, Stewart further teaches that the single connection point is configured for fixed placement in a concealed environment (220 is fixedly placed in the access point 124, fig. 2C).

Regarding claim 18, Stewart further teaches that the secondary communication interface 210C, 210D, 230C, 230D is adapted to be secured in a fixed location 124 (fig. 2C) while conveniently providing said communicative coupling to a downstream network device 111 via a wireless technology (fig. 1A).

Regarding claim 19, Stewart also teaches intelligently concentrating data from a plurality of interface connection ports 210C, 210D, 230C, 230D (fig. 2C) included of said second connection interface for communication on said primary connection port (single output from 220, fig. 2C) of a first connection interface .

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metz et al. in view of Shimono (US 6,877,104).

Regarding claims 12-14, Metz does not explicitly teach a means or fault detection 16 for processing and interpreting data coupled to a first interface. In an analogous art, Shimono teaches a means for processing and interpreting data 97a, 97b coupled to a first interface 5 of a wireless access point (fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Shimono to the network connection point of Metz so that data received from the wireless device can be properly converted to upstream data. Shimono also teaches fault detection means 10a, 10b, 30a, 30b coupled to the means for processing and interpreting data 97a, 97b. Shimono further teaches a processing unit 97a, 97b for processing information; and a memory 96a, 96b for storing said information (fig. 2).

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in view of Shimono (US 6,877,104).

Regarding claims 12-14, Stewart does not explicitly teach a means or fault detection 16 for processing and interpreting data coupled to a first interface. In an analogous art, Shimono teaches a means for processing and interpreting data 97a, 97b coupled to a first interface 5 of a wireless access point (fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Shimono to the network connection point of Stewart so that data received from the wireless device can be properly converted to upstream data. Shimono also teaches fault detection means 10a, 10b, 30a, 30b coupled to the means for processing and interpreting data 97a, 97b. Shimono further teaches a processing unit 97a, 97b for processing information; and a memory 96a, 96b for storing said information (fig. 2).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-5 are allowed.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the anchor means as claimed.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/01/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, Applicant contends that Metz does not teach or suggest that, "wherein said second connection interface is adapted to be secured in a fixed location.

In response, as stated in the above rejection, "it is noticed that the device 8 is expanded and integrated within the work station 3". Therefore, the second connection interface 9 within the device 8 is also to be fixedly placed in the work station 3, see col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 4 and lines 51-55).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-7854. The examiner can normally be reached on FIRST FRIDAY OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DORIS TO can be reached on 571-272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LEE NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER